

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17510 041653Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AME BASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5221
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS : EGEN, ETRD, ASEC, UR
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE INTOURIST IN NEW YORK

REF: STATE 286600

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMEXCO SENIOR MOSCOW REP TEDESCO, COMATT RAISED TOPIC REFTEL WITH DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MARSCHALKO ON DECEMBER 2. MARSCHALKO SAID HE WAS AWARE OF SOVIET PROPOSAL AND THAT TEDESCO HAD BRIEFED HIM FULLY ON AMEXCO'S POSITION PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR SRI CONFERENCE IN VIENNA. ALTHOUGH MARSCHALKO SAID THAT HIS OFFICE HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT EXACT LOCATIONS OF PREMISES SOVIETS HAD IN MIND FOR THEIR RELOCATION IN NEW YORK, IT WAS AWARE THAT SOVIET LEASE WOULD EXPIRE AT PRESENT LOCATION IN APRIL, 1978.

2. AS REGARDS RECIPROCITY, MARSCHALKO SAID THAT TEDESCO (AND PRESUMABLY AMEXCO HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK) INTENDED SOON TO "IMPLORE" STATE DEPARTMENT TO BRING RENEWED PRESSURE ON SOVIETS TO PROVIDE BETTER OFFICE FACILITIES FOR AMEXCO IN MOSCOW.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17510 041653Z

AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, AMEXCO OFFICE HAS FOR NEARLY TWENTY YEARS BEEN LOCATED IN A REAR CORRIDOR ON THIRD FLOOR OF METROPOLE HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN MMSHOW -- OUT OF SIGHT AND VIRTUALLY INACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC. MARSCHALKO READILY CONCEDED THAT WHILE FROM PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF OR UTILITY IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE

OFFICE SPACE ON GRAOUND LEVEL WITH EXPOSURE ON STREET, HE EMPHASIZED THAT AMEXCO IS UNHAPPY WITH PRESENT LOCATION AND WANTS SOMETHING BETTER. SOVIETS APPARENTLY TOLD FIRM RECENTLY THAT BEST POSSIBILITY FOR RELOCATION IN MOSCOW WOULD OCCUR IN ABOUT TWO YEARS' TIME WHEN NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN. AMEXCO IS NOT CONFIDENT THAT SOVIETS WILL MEET CONSTRUCTION DEADLINES, HOWEVER, AND WOULD LIKE TO BRING PRESSURE ON SOVIETS IN INTERIM TO OFFER THEM IMPROVED OFFICE FACILITIES.

3. FIRM AMEXCO'S MOSCOW OFFICE THUS FIRMLY OF OPINION THAT SOVIETS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT TO GO AHEAD WITH SIGNING OF LEASE AT EITHER OF TWO NEW YORK LOCATIONS CITED REFTEL, UNTIL FIRM HAS BEEN OFFERED BETTER OFFICE SPACE HERE -- IRRESPECTIVE OF WHEN WORLD TRADE CENTER BECOMES AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY. SINCE MARSCHALKO ASSURED COMATT THAT THIS POSITION WAS IN ACCORD WITH AMEXCO HEADQUARTER'S THINKING IN NEW YORK, WE PRESUME DEPARTMENT WILL HEAR SAME THING FROM THERE. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY CONCURS THAT SOVIET TREATMENT OF AMEXCO'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR IMPORVED QUARTERS THROUGH THE YEARS HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY A NEGLECT SOMEWHAT OTHER THAN BENIGN. WE BELIEVE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY SHOULD BE FIRMLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17510 041653Z

UPHELD IN THIS INSTANCE AND THAT OFFICIAL SUPPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AMEXCO'S DESIRES TO RELOCATE THEIR OFFICES IN MOSCOW AS WELL.

4. INCIDENTALLY, MARSCHALKO ALSO INFORMED COMATT THAT HE IS ONCE AGAIN EXPERIENCING -- AT LEAST PRELIMINARILY -- TROUBLE IN GETTING HIS ONE-YEAR SOVIET MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISA EXTENDED. HE SAID HE HAD RESPONDED TO INTOURIST REQUEST TO SUBMIT HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S PASSPORTS FOR VISA RENEWAL ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO AND HAS HEARD NOTHING SINCE. (AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, BOTH MARSCHALKO AND THEN-SENIOR AMEXCO REP ROGER SCHMIDT WENT THROUGH A SEVERAL-MONTH HASSLE AT END OF 1976 AND BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR ON THIS VERY QUESTION.) MARSCHALKO SAID THAT IN EARLIER YEARS WHENEVER SOVIETS REQUESTED HIS PASSPORT FOR VISA RENEWAL THE PROCESS TOOK ONLY ONE OR TWO DAYS. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE ANYTHING OUT OF IT JUST YET, HE SPECULATED THAT SOVIETS MIGHT BE THINKING OF HOLDING UP ON HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S VISA RENEWALS UNTIL MATTER OF NEW YORK LEASE RESOLVED. WE DOUBT IT,

BUT REPORT HIS CONCERN AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST. TOON

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Sent Date: 03-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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